



CITY OF

SEQUIM

News

November 2011



### Meeting Dates & Locations

City Council Regular Meeting Transit Center	2nd & 4th Monday 6:00 p.m.
City Council Study Session Transit Center (when required)	2nd & 4th Monday 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Transit Center	1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Parks Advisory Board PW—615 N. 5th Ave.	2nd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Design Review Board PW—615 N. 5th Ave.	2nd Wednesday 5:00 p.m.
Lodging Tax Advisory Comm. Transit Center Conf. Room	Quarterly—Next Meeting 12/13/11 2:00 p.m.
Centennial Committee Transit Center Conf. Room	3rd Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
Sequim Speaks Transit Center Conf. Room	4th Tuesday 6:30 p.m.



### November Movie “North By Northwest”

The City of Sequim and Olympic Theatre Arts present Alfred Hitchcock’s “North By Northwest” on Wednesday, November 16 at Olympic Theatre Arts, 414 North Sequim Avenue. The movie will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and will close at 7:10 p.m.

once the movie has started. Admission is \$5 per person. Individuals 16 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Following is the schedule for the rest of the year:

**November 16—“North By Northwest”**

**December 21—“Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”**

### Find Out What is Buried Before You Dig

If you are planning to install a fence, build a deck, plant trees, build a shed, dig for a well or septic tank, install a sprinkler system or install private utilities to a shop, barn, garage, greenhouse, or any other outbuilding **call 811 before you dig.**

Two days before you dig call 811 or go to <http://www.callbeforeyoudig.org/itilicitepickstates.htm>. The utility company will send a worker to locate their buried lines FOR FREE that might be near your proposed digging areas. They will only mark lines that are their own. They will not mark any private lines.

### On-line Bill Pay Coming Soon!

Watch for news about paying your utility bills on-line through the new City of Sequim website.

### Upcoming Public Hearings

**November 14**

**City of Sequim** 1) 2012 Final Budget  
2) Amend TBD Creation Ordinance  
**Transportation Benefit District** 1) 2012 Final Budget  
2) Amend TBD Creation Ordinance  
3) 2011 Budget Amendments

### Welcome New Employees!

JoElle Munger - Temporary Police Officer 10/1/11

Jacob McBride, Maintenance Worker 10/17/11

### City Offices Will Be Closed On

**Friday, November 11** in observation of Veteran’s Day and  
**Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25**  
for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Check Out the New City Websites

The City of Sequim launched two new websites on Monday, October 24. The new official City of Sequim website can be found at <http://www.sequimwa.gov> the new Sequim tourism website can be found at <http://www.visitsunnysequim.com>.

The new websites were designed to make it easier for users to find the information they are looking for and to provide better service to our customers.

New features of the City of Sequim website include multiple navigation paths to find information, a comprehensive calendar and a community Spotlight that allows featured news to be highlighted. The site includes an emergency alert center that will drop down over the top of the page if there is a true emergency. Citizens can sign up for e-mail notifications on the type of news they are interested in. The site also has a photo gallery of the City and community events and allows residents to submit photos to the website.

The new tourism website is the official site for visitors to Sequim. It highlights local lodging, restaurants, shopping, tourist attractions, and activities. New features include a calendar of events that the community can contribute to, an electronic postcard that can be sent to family and friends, a photo gallery and a Spotlight of featured events.

### Sequim Citizens are Warned of Utility Scam

A ratepayer recently alerted City staff to a “City of Sequim Utilities Notification” he had received purporting to be sent from the City of Sequim. The letter was in fact a fundraising scam by a national special interest group called Citizens United in support of oil drilling in the United States. *The City of Sequim has nothing to do with this mailing.* We caution citizens to be careful providing personal information, and recommend that if you do receive such fraudulent notices by mail that they be reported to the appropriate authorities. The City of Sequim has requested an investigation by the United States Postal Inspector.



### **Budget Message to City of Sequim Citizens From City Manager Steve Burkett**

I am pleased to present the City's 2012 Annual Budget, which is scheduled for adoption by the Sequim City Council on November 14, 2011. The proposed budget is a financial plan that is focused primarily on maintenance of current service levels within the constraints of available resources brought on by very difficult economic conditions. The budget represents our continued commitment to prudent fiscal management, effective service delivery and to providing you, our citizens, with an affordable quality of life.

#### **Balanced General Fund**

Projected General Fund revenues and expenses for 2012 are approximately \$8.3 million. I am proposing the use of General Fund reserves for one-time expenditures of \$130,000. This will leave the General Fund Reserve Balance within the range of adopted fund balance policy.

In order to balance the fund, each department was asked to carefully review its budget and to make reductions where possible: we eliminated two positions; the proposed budget does not include salary increases for 76% of our employees; I recommend the transfer of costs for maintenance of the Reuse Site and the new athletic fields from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund; we fund some one-time costs from the fund balance; we increase water and utilities rates.

#### **Budget Principles**

The proposed budget was based on the City Council vision, critical success factors, and priorities that were adopted in March 2011. The budget preparation was also guided by the recently adopted City Council financial policies and the following budget principles:

- Balance the budget, current revenues and current expenses for non-one-time expenses;
- Continue to implement City Council top priorities;
- Minimize impact of any tax and fee increases on residents and ratepayers;
- Make decisions in the 2012 budget that reset the City's financial plan and creates a foundation to maintain a balanced budget in the next several years;
- Maintain top priority services but reduce lower priority services in order to reduce expenses;
- Use the results of the citizens survey to guide expenditure increases and reductions;
- Avoid employee layoffs and furloughs and the related service reductions where possible;
- Avoid expenditure reductions or other decisions that have a long-term negative impact on the City;
- Don't delay expenditures that are necessary today and represent "pay me now or pay me later" choices.

Given the unprecedented economic circumstances over the last few years it has been necessary to make some difficult decisions in order to balance the 2012 proposed budget. However, the budget does address the City's highest priority - service and capital needs for 2012. It is a budget that reduces some service levels and does not satisfy all of the demands placed on the City. It may require us to make slower progress than we desire to achieve some of our goals. However, it does support our efforts for continued financial stability in future years.

### **Utility Discounts Available for Low Income Residents**

The City of Sequim recognizes these are tough economic times. To financially assist those struggling in meeting their basic needs, utility rate reductions are available for qualifying low income residents. If your income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines or \$25,000, you may be eligible. There is an additional net-asset based test to determine qualification. The exact amount of your discount will be administratively determined upon receipt of all applications for the 2012 program. Qualifying applicants will see the discounted rates on their January usage bill.

Applications for the 2012 discount are due December 31, 2011 and are available at the following locations: City Hall, DSHS, Sequim Community Aid, St. Vincent De Paul, Serenity House, United Way and the Sequim Senior Center. Applications can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sequimwa.gov>. Please don't hesitate to call City Hall (360) 683-4139 with your questions.